

**Lower Snake River District (LSRD)
Resource Advisory Council Meeting (RAC)
Idaho State Office, Sagebrush/Ponderosa Room
November 18, 2003**

Minutes

Council Members Present: Robert Amidon, Russ Heughins, Don Weilmunster, Donna Griffin, Gil Green, John Robison, Richard Raymondi.

Council Members Absent: Brenda Richards, Chris Salove, Ted Howard, Robert Baker, Sandra Mitchell, Brian Schrage, Kenneth Reid, William Platts.

BLM Advisory Present: Howard Hedrick, Associate District Manager, LSRD, and Acting Designated Federal Official (DFO) for District Manager Glen Secrist; M.J. Byrne, Public Affairs Specialist and RAC Coordinator, BLM-LSRD.

Other BLM Staff Present: Jack Sept, Liaison Specialist to Idaho Director, BLM, K Lynn Bennett; Jenna Whitlock, Owyhee Field Office Manager; Daryl Albiston, Four Rivers Field Office Manager, Eddie Guerrero, Jarbidge, Field Office Manager; Rosey Thomas, LSRD Fire and Aviation Office Manager; Jason Sutter, LSRD; Jim Klott, Jarbidge Field Office, Wildlife Management Biologist.

Other: Becky Desmond, note taker.

Statements attributed to individuals are not direct quotes unless so indicated.

Council Business, General Information, and Opening Remarks:

Chairman Don Weilmunster called the meeting to order at 9:20 am. Council members, BLM staff, and others were thanked for coming. He introduced Mr. Jake Ball, Regional Director of Natural Resources for U.S. Senator Mike Crapo's office as an observer, Mr. Rick Collignon, Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and Mr. Dave Claycomb, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program Manager, IDPR. He noted that most of the absentees had called and had asked to be excused for scheduling conflicts. Congratulations were offered to John Robison for his recent marriage and a foothills picture signed by RAC members, BLM staff and managers, including Kathleen Clarke was presented to him. Minutes from the August 26, 2003 RAC meeting were certified. Don Weilmunster also thanked other guests and public for coming. Donna Griffin congratulated RAC reappointees, and said she would incorporate new corrections to the minutes along with one missing report. Don Weilmunster thanked the "unsung hero," M.J. Byrne, for all her work and time spent on RAC meetings. She returned the thanks to Mr. Weilmunster and to Donna Griffin for their work. Howard Hedrick then introduced and welcomed Becky Desmond as the new note taker for the RAC.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Accomplishments and Activities Planned for 2004--moderated by Vice-Chair Donna Griffin:

Donna introduced Mr. Rick Collignon, Director of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation since 2001. He was previously assistant director of the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation as well as a regional park manager. In 2000 he came to the Idaho system as a region manager. He holds a Masters of

Public Administration degree from the University of South Dakota. Currently his responsibilities include the identification, acquisition, and development of unique or historical sites, directing the State Trust for Outdoor Recreation Enhancement (STORE), and managing the following programs: the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); winter recreation; trails; boat safety and waterways; RV; and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Tourism (SCORTP). In addition, he is responsible for the overall management of Idaho's state parks. Donna also introduced Mr. Dave Claycomb, IDPR off-highway vehicle education program manager.

Mr. Collignon and Mr. Claycomb presented a summary of the IDPR's current OHV strategy plans for Idaho. The following are some statistics relating to OHV use. 1) There are 384,000 registered recreation vehicles in Idaho. 2) There are 70,000 ATV's and motorbikes registered, as compared to 14,000 15 years ago. This figure represents a registration compliance rate of 60 to 70%, making a possible total of 150,000 OHV's in Idaho. 3) There has been a 300% increase in OHV use over the past five years. 4) The biggest buyers of OHV's are in the +50 age group.

Mr. Collignon said the IDPR is the state agency tasked by the Idaho legislature to manage recreational use, and includes the authority to regulate OHV use. It is a management challenge, which requires working with other agencies including the BLM, the Idaho Fish and Game Department, the Idaho Department of Lands, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency. The need is to develop a statewide strategy before, "OHV's eat our lunch." He noted that over the past two decades the objective was to disperse use by adding more trails, thereby reducing localized impact. But now the goal is concentration of use because of environmental concerns. There has been a departmental shift from funding dispersed projects to funding management efforts. These efforts are based on the beliefs that, "recreation is not criminal," and that the best way to control OHV impact is by, "making it socially unacceptable to NOT comply with laws and regulations." Therefore the state strategy will include: the designing of opportunities for OHV enthusiasts (trail engineering), and the development of an education and compliance program. He said there was a need to develop an outdoor recreation data center, which makes available science-based empirical information in a format that is suitable for decision-makers. One of the main goals of IDPR will be to provide a good balance between OHV and other users of Idaho's outdoors.

Council members were given a 12-page executive summary of the "Lost River Recreation Trailway Adaptive Management Proposal," which represents IDPR's first in a series of proposed trail systems around the state. Rick said the goal is to, "get OHV use out of the hinterlands and onto a trail system". He noted that other trails would not necessarily be closed to OHV use.

Mr. Claycomb then discussed his priority--an increased emphasis on education. He said that for the competing interests of a number of recreationalists to be resolved, the following must happen: a connection between IDPR and the RAC; the ability to "get past" personalities; the ability to "get past" turf wars; the ability to "get past" those opposed to ALL OHV use on public lands; the ability to "get past" the attitude of 20 years ago where OHV's could "go wherever"; and the realization that mapping of trails is not promotional but rather managerial. He said there has to be coordination of many entities and groups, including private landowners.

Russ Heughins suggested that a way to get sportsmen and hunters involved was to attend their meetings. He offered to provide contact names for those groups to IDPR. He was concerned that all stakeholders need to be at the table. Russ also emphasized education as the way to attain the goal of "making it socially

unacceptable” to avoid compliance with OHV rules. Rick said he would be interviewing for a “human dimension specialist” to aid in their work.

John Robison said the environmental groups’ concern is that mapping IS promotional and wondered how IDPR planned to mesh the turf among agencies. John said that IDPR has a different mandate from other multiple-use agencies--how to balance state control of OHV’s. IDPR doesn’t have to have its staff called off to work on such things as fire control, NEPA concerns, national defense, or law enforcement, for example.

John again wondered how IDPR would distinguish the “funneling effect” it desires from attracting mass recreational users from outside Idaho, and also questioned why such a large-scale proposal as the Lost River plan was used rather than a smaller approach at first. Rick said the system had to be large enough to draw users onto managed trails and out of unmanaged trails, and that the proposal already was reduced to 300 miles from an original figure of 1200 miles. John wondered if they were going to avoid things such as lek sites, at least until say, five years’ worth of data were collected.

Rick and Dave both reiterated the desire for conservationists not to take a polarized approach, and said that mapping is not building anything, or creating new trails, just organizing use. Mapping and signing can also close trails that will harm resources, such as lek sites.

Rich Raymondi wondered if “quiet” was being taken into consideration, as well as physical damage to resources. Rick said that multiple-use does address these issues. He then said that Lost River, rather than the Owyhee Front, was being developed first, because the “risk was too high that trails in the Owyhee Front would be overrun before the trails could be managed correctly. It was too close to a high-population area. Central Idaho was the best place to start--to get the organization, education, and acceptance in place first. It’s the place to set the high standard and go into it slowly.” He also mentioned that the Silver Valley area in northern Idaho wanted to be involved in a trail system too.

(Barry Rose, public affairs specialist with BLM’s Idaho State Office, was not present at the RAC meeting. He sent an information paper (see appendix) describing the status of BLM-Idaho’s OHV Strategy and Fiscal Year 2004 plans for implementation.)

Jason Sutter, ECO/GIS/OHV, BLM-LSRD standing in for Jim Schmid, Trails Specialist, BLM-LSRD, then gave a progress report and plans for OHV use in the Owyhee Field Office. (Handout was provided at meeting)

Jason described the way trails and roads were identified and categorized in the 2.7 million acre Owyhee Front. They worked with Oregon BLM staffers on aerial photos and gathered information on trails, livestock paths, sand washes, etc. using topo quads. Possible conflicts with users were noted, and Jason said many groups were consulted. Russ asked if hunting groups were consulted, and Jason didn’t think so yet. They are in the final stage of identifying types of trails as to single-track or more, skill level required, and maintenance requirements. He said there are many sensitive issues involved with OHV use in the Owyhee Front, including, SIDRA races, wild horse and burro requirements, sensitive reptiles, redundant trails, equestrian use, and landowner concerns.

Currently an EA allows maintenance on 100 miles of trails, but they have received a grant for a five-year deferred maintenance plan. They are going to work on an “easy” 50-mile plan--maintaining an All-Terrain Vehicle width, smoothing out moguls, and providing for both active and passive restoration. He said the goal is for at least 500 managed and maintained trails in the Owyhee Front, using an adaptive management plan. He said the BLM is best-suited to manage these trails because the BLM is the primary landowner. Becky Desmond, (speaking as an Owyhee landowner), asked if private landowners near Murphy had been contacted yet and suggested a meeting with those BLM-landlocked owners would be a good idea. Jason concurred. Rick wondered if an inventory of pioneer routes had been done. Jason said there are over 2000 miles of trails, that only 50 would be maintained at first, and 500 eventually, leaving 1500 miles of trails maintained differently but not necessarily closed. Rick said that service aspects need to be kept in mind with agricultural and ranching needs. Russ Heughins said he thought the majority of the public sees the need for motorized access but that the trick is to get them to act responsibly, and to increase their level of education regarding trails management and other OHV issues.

Rick said the boating and firearm safety programs currently available for school kids were great models for OHV education programs, but that until the next generation is educated, the “next 10 years will probably be miserable.” Dave Claycomb said that Utah’s education program is also in place and could be an example to follow. Russ suggested the productive role the LSRD RAC would be to support the efforts of Jason, Rick, and Dave and to help develop and implement the best acceptable plan.

In further discussion about the Owyhee Front, several more statements were made concerning the lack of financial benefits to Murphy in particular. Murphy gets all the liabilities and no benefits. The area within the first mile of the trailheads is the most abused. This area should be maintained and signed, and generally give the impression to users that it is a managed area. Trailheads could be moved closer to local communities to help them financially.

Jason said they have had many requests from users for trails that require different user skill levels, and for separate trails for equestrian use. He discussed the Wilson Creek Trailhead in regard to a non-motorized trail system, single-track and not maintained, for horses.

Jason said they are moving forward, trying to get public comment, and hope to get on the ground with actual work in the coming year.

Don Weilmunster thanked Jason, Dave, and Rick for their presentations.

LSRD-RAC’s Role in OHV Strategy Implementation.

M.J. Byrne then facilitated a ten-minute discussion on the RAC’s role in OHV implementation. Donna Griffin took flip-chart notes which will be summarized and sent to RAC members for them to get feedback from their constituents. The note taker’s summary follows:

“The main idea will be to promote interagency cooperation in the development of OHV guidelines for Idaho. OHV use falls into many jurisdictions including the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Fish and Game, and Fish and Wildlife. Parks and Recreation is the state agency tasked by the legislature to manage recreational use of OHV's. Interagency cooperation is needed in several categories: getting input from constituents; education and

outreach, identification of issues and designations of OHV's, industry ownership of OHV issues, actual trail design and trailhead location (including mapping and signing), compliance techniques, and NEPA review. The goal will be a management system that provides, first and foremost, balance among all stakeholders.

Major concepts that are being followed to accomplish a balanced management plan are:

- Pushing forward past the "apprehension" of trying to deal with increasing OHV activity in a positive way.
- Emphasizing education, safety, and making it "socially unacceptable" to ignore rules and regulations.
- Creating an outdoor recreation data center.
- Moving from dispersal of OHV use (used for past 20 years) to concentration of use because of environmental concerns.

Some techniques that RAC could consider are: hosting meetings for users; getting input and feedback from constituent groups; aiding in education, safety and outreach; researching economic advantages/disadvantages for local populations near OHV trails; making sure ALL stakeholders have input and; and encouraging continuing interagency cooperation and communication.”

Public Comments: None

Working Lunch Break--delicious turkey sandwiches and fixin's provided by M.J. Byrne--much appreciated by all! Following the lunch period, Don Weilmunster noted that Layne Bangerter, State Director of Natural Resources & Environment for U.S. Senator Mike Crapo's office had arrived. Chairman Weilmunster thanked Layne for coming to the meeting.

Subcommittee Reports: Don Weilmunster thanked **Rick Raymondi, Chair, Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Subcommittee** for all his hard work and leadership as chairman of the RAC's sage-grouse subcommittee. Rick reported on the subcommittee meeting held with representatives from RES North America, L.L.C., describing the data collection process re: wind energy development, showing examples of anemometers and the latest designs of Wind Turbines. Subcommittee members asked whether REC or BLM was aware of any scientific studies and data addressing the impact of anemometers on leks. Mr. Scott Piscitello, Development Manager for RES told the members few scientific studies have been conducted in this area. District Manager, Glen Secrist informed the RAC members via a letter that BLM was approving the environmental assessment (EA) without this data. However, at the RAC's suggestion, he had added a stipulation in the Decision Record for the EA that a monitoring program be implemented so that this data could be gathered during the three years of data gathering and analysis by RES. Rick said the EA, and Decision Record were mailed to every RAC member by the BLM. The Decision Record included some additional mitigating efforts by BLM-LSRD.

Jim Klott, Wildlife Management Biologist, Jarbidge Field Office LSRD-BLM, discussed the Brown's Bench Wind Energy proposal. He provided maps to show movements of sage-grouse in the area, locations of leks in the area, and mapping sites of the four anemometers. He said the Jarbidge Sage-Grouse Local Working Group was very interested in the study. He also discussed an on-going meteorological tower study that is being sponsored by this Local Working Group. (handouts and maps were provided at the meeting) The study is being conducted in the Brown's Bench area and is attempting to document winter use areas for sage-grouse.

John Robison noted there was not enough time now to get in four or five years' worth of study data before the anemometers went up, and wondered if there were future areas for wind energy that could be studied starting now as to effect on sage-grouse or other environmental concerns. He asked if there was an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requirement, but Eddie Guerrero didn't think there was just for the possible development of wind towers. However, an EIS is required if a proposal is submitted for a wind energy project or "farm". Gil Green said that the two Resource Management Plans (RMP's) under development in LSRD are also analyzing possible sites for wind energy and impacts. Gil noted there may be a way to get base-line data through the RMP development process. All agreed that if the site was found to have sufficient, consistent wind energy production capability, and if RES applied for a permit to develop a wind farm at the site, an environmental impact statement would have to be conducted, which would allow for significantly greater opportunity for public comment. Russ thought if this were to happen that sage-grouse in that area would be greatly diminished because power transmission lines running from the site would disrupt their habitat and breeding habits. Eddie said only existing power lines would be used but did not give further details. **He asked the RAC or RAC sub-committee to review the wind study proposal by the Jarbidge Sage-Grouse Local Working Group and give BLM and comments or recommendations regarding it. Russ agreed to take the lead on this activity for the RAC.** Layne Bangerter from U.S. Senator Crapo's office said that the need for less dependence on foreign sources of energy should not result in the loss of sage-grouse habitat. However, he cited economic studies that report the possibility of 200,000 new jobs being created nation-wide associated with wind energy development.

Gil Green then discussed the Bruneau RMP, thanking all RAC-member participation in the effort. He reported on nine alternatives in this plan, at least seven for the Snake River Conservation Area. BLM will have the draft alternatives ready for public meetings in January. URS has been contracted to do the draft alternatives impact analysis (which is the next step) and is planning for an early summer completion date. The draft EIS/RMP should be ready for distribution the public for comment by the end of 2004. Gil attended several large and small group meetings and was impressed by the procedure, the staff, and the public comments. He said there were some preliminary ideas on wind energy sites but nothing else yet. M.J. thanked Gil Green and his subcommittee members for their hours of work over this last year with development of the two Resource Management Plans for LSRD.

Russ mentioned that Michelle Commons would soon have overlay maps showing sage-grouse stronghold areas. Rich Raymondi said that the BLM should be proactive, not reactive, toward wind energy, and identify good sites to the Department of Energy. John Robison was concerned that the BLM (via the RMP process) should identify good sites and be ahead of the "streamlining" process currently going on in the oil and gas fields. Gil said the RMP's are doing that. Howard Hedrick said that land use plans sometimes get too unwieldy if everything is put into them at first, and that it was better to use NEPA and an EIS to get site-specific data. Russ said that both narratives AND maps that identify critical areas for "whatever" need to be made available to the public.

(Brenda Richards, Chair., Rangeland Standards and Guidelines Subcommittee, was not present at the RAC meeting but sent an informational paper (see appendix) on the Subcommittee report.)

District Fire Manager and Field Office Reports

Rosemary Thomas, District Fire Management Officer, reported that North Wind, Inc. had been contracted to do the fire management plan and a “normal-year” fire rehabilitation plan. They are trying to develop an interagency template. She thanked Donna Griffin for her suggestion on the use of public service announcements (PSA's) in the on-going effort to develop a fire safety and education curriculum. She said there was current training occurring in the prescribed fires and fuels area, and that there was citizen group interest in preventing wildfire. John Robison asked if fire plans were under NEPA rules? Rosemary said no, not here, and public comment was not being asked for yet. Fire rehab plans do have opportunity for public comment.

In response to a question about the Pixley Basin prescribed burn getting out-of-control, Rosemary deferred the answer to Jenna Whitlock later. Rosemary did say the after-action review was quite valuable. She also said that some area fire people responded to the wildfires in California, but were sent home without having to act. She said the roster for summer hire will open from Dec.15, 2003 to Jan.15, 2004.

Jarbridge Field Office-Eddie Guerrero

* Dynamac, a contractor out of Idaho Falls has been contracted to do the NEPA document on the Temporary Non-Renewable (TNR) conversion known as the Simplot allotments Environmental Assessment (EA). The second TNR conversion effort will be the AML EA which includes seven allotments within the Saylor Creek Horse Herd Area. The third TNR conversion has not been contracted and will include approximately 16 allotments. All NEPA needs to be completed by the end of 2004.

* Special wording in the Interior Appropriations legislation will allow permittees that have received TNR historically to continue to receive TNR through 2004 as long as requirements identified in the legislation are met.

* BLM wind energy development EIS scoping public meetings. One of several public scoping meetings being held across the country will be held in Boise on November 20, 2003, at the Center on the Grove. The scoping meeting will be from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for the public to provide initial input prior to the development of an EIS. RAC members and the public are encouraged to attend.

Owyhee Field Office--Jenna Whitlock

* Handout on Standards and Guideline Assessment, Determination, and permit issuance schedule (see appendix).

* Final decision recently issued on the Nickel Creek allotment.

* Proposed decision recently issued on the Trout Springs Allotment. BLM issued a final decision last year, which was appealed by the permittees and county. Western Watersheds intervened. Permittees agreed to drop their appeal if BLM re-issued a new grazing decision (due at the end of October). The new proposal includes a three-pasture rotation instead of a two-pasture rotation, which increases the AUM's (animal unit months) by 42%.

Russ Heughins asked when the public could look at the Hardtrigger settlement. Heughins expressed concern that the interested public was not involved in the settlement discussions. Settlements are available to the public once they have been approved by the Office of Hearings and Appeals. Individuals can acquire copies of settlements upon request.

- * The EA is coming on the sale to Owyhee County for a landfill and for the sale of land at Flint Creek to the Bonnells.
- * BLM has completed the EA for rock removal from the Owyhee Front by United Mining. The EA was part of a federal district court settlement on sculpted rock on the Big Wood River, in the BLM Shoshone Field Office. Mitigation identified in the EA includes continued research on collared lizards, maintaining lizard habitat, and photo documentation of the Poison Creek Stage Stop.
- * There is a preliminary EA for the Silver City Wildland Urban Interface that will be going to the residents of Silver City and the public in the next several months. .
- * OHV route designations will be undertaken in the Bruneau planning effort. The Owyhee FO will also start planning and NEPA for route designation in the Owyhee Front, in the old Owyhee RMP in the coming year.
- * The Pixley Basin field trip was weathered out. The prescribed burn blackened 2200 acres out of 7000 in a patchwork or mosaic effect, and was considered to be highly successful.
- * Owyhee FO will undertake a landscape scale planning and NEPA effort for juniper management for about 300,000 acres in the area of Juniper Mountain. After action review was conducted by BLM for the Pixley Basin burn. The review identified what went well with the planning and execution of the prescribed burn and what we would do differently. John Robison asked what things were identified to do differently at Pixley Basin. Jenna and Rosey said the BLM learned on all levels:
 - That a prescribed burn is not a scalpel -- just because we identify non-ignition areas doesn't mean that those areas aren't susceptible to burning.- Although Pixley burned "out-of-sequence", the fire stayed within the project area. Good aerial photos were obtained that showed the mosaic effect and will be part of a documentary.

Russ thought that on private land individual bitterbrush plants were burned but that the landowner did it. Whitlock confirmed that a private landowner burned his land outside of the project area.

Howard Hedrick apologized for a late-canceled field trip that apparently happened anyway. Rosemary agreed and said it was another lesson learned. Russ said that many in his groups would rather take part in cutting junipers than burning it. Howard said he would take him up on it.

Four Rivers Field Office--Daryl Albiston

First, Don Weilmunster thanked Daryl for a great six years as field manager and wished him well upon his retirement next month.

- * The thinning around Idaho City called for in the national fire plan has mostly been completed.
- * Dick Markley has been selected as the Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Walla Walla-Whitman National Forest. Dick is currently the Idaho City District Ranger.

- * In Garden Valley, North Wind, Inc. has been contracted to develop a prescription for treatment of several thousand acres. This will include thinning, road reconstruction, and fire breaks.
- * Next spring pre-commercial thinning to reduce fire risk is planned in the Placerville-Centerville area.
- * Cascade and Jarbidge areas both have prescribed fire thresholds in the RMP's. Both plans are NEPA compliant with respect to fire management.
- * Kuna MFP area seems to burn by itself. This MFP is not NEPA compliant.
- * Has been assisting the state office in the last couple of months with development of the Lepidium Candidate Conservation Agreement. The steering committee for this effort is trying to come up with a strategy to deter a listing for Lepidium. ICA and a couple ranchers are on the committee.
- * In the Boise Front, there is a need to develop coordination between agencies and between jurisdictions in the area. An MOU for management is close to finalization.
- * Land exchanges: Boise Front Land Exchange which is predominately an IDL trade with the Forest Service with a side product of BLM acquiring most of the IDL parcels on the Front.
- * No individually-initiated land exchanges going on now. John McCallum was turned down.

Daryl said he would like to thank the RAC as being a good group to work with. He said he had worked with groups starting in 1983 in California, and with PAC's in Oregon, and that this RAC was a good one.

Public Comments--none

Review of LSRD's RAC's Charter

Dr. Bill Platts was not present, so this agenda item was postponed.

LSRD-RAC's Work Plan for 2004

This agenda item was carried over to the next meeting so that RAC members can discuss this with the interest groups they represent. Accomplishments in 2003 should be reviewed, and issues for 2004 should be prioritized.

Follow-up Actions

Russ Heughins asked **Jack Sept** about the RAC orientation sessions. He said the complete BLM orientation would include everything, but the charter specifically calls for rangeland and ecological training. This will be an individual session handled by Ken Sanders. **M.J. Byrne asked RAC members to provide her with suggestions for their orientation session and said that Jack needed input after the first of the year. She said she would e-mail RAC members for this effort.** Jack said that BLM-Idaho's organizational refinement is going forward, including the creation of a fourth district in southwestern Idaho. This means that a fourth RAC may be established, which could affect the area of membership represented by the LSRD-RAC. MJ noted, however, that no one from the Twin Falls area currently serves on this RAC.

Don requested a letter be developed and sent to BLM Director, Kathleen Clarke, and Department of Interior Secretary, Gail Norton, recapping accomplishments of the LSRD RAC and its subcommittees. Each of the subcommittee Chair's were asked to send Donna Griffin, Vice-Chair, LSRD-RAC, a short summary pf their accomplishments by mid-December. M.J. noted this

information would greatly assist her in the RAC's annual report she has to develop and send to BLM's Washington, D.C.

M.J. had checked on legalities of mailing lists, and reported that non-voting members of the RAC and subcommittee members should be on the mailing list.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 17. The council also agreed that the third Tuesday of each quarterly month could be the regular meeting date (February, May, August, and November).

Gil moved to adjourn, and Don accepted. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Becky Desmond

Certified by:

Don Weilmunster
Resource Advisory Council Chairman

Glen Secrist
Lower Snake River District Manager

APPENDIX ITEM -- SENT IN BY BRENDA RICHARDS

Lower Snake River District RAC Standards and Guider Subcommittee Report November 18, 2003 Brenda Richards, Chairman

The Standards and Guidelines review is a process set forth by State BLM Director, K Lynn Bennett, to check and assure that the Standards and Guides are being used in a consistent manner across the state.

RAC members were invited to participate in the initial review process with the BLM teams to look at how assessments had been done and were being done in offices. Feedback was taken.

Results and suggestions have been sent back to the offices for their review and comments. The LSRD RAC subcommittee's role at this point is to allow the offices opportunity to respond. At the appropriate time the subcommittee will be asked to review the responses and offer feedback.

Ron Kay from the State BLM office and Erv Cowley have been the LSRD RAC contacts.

APPENDIX ITEM -- SENT IN BY BARRY ROSE

BLM Idaho State Office

Preliminary Off-Highway Vehicle Management Goals and Priorities for FY 2004:

- For FY 2004, implement the following priority actions from the Idaho OHV Travel and Access Management Strategy:
 - Identify and prioritize special management areas in each district for the development of OHV information to use in visitor contact, interpretation and education.
 - Identify areas where OHV use “will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects,” and determine if an interim OHV designation is required in accordance with national policy.
 - Identify and prioritize areas that need comprehensive travel management plans.
 - Initiate route inventories and/or route designations for areas that are now, or will be limited to existing or designated routes.
 - Identify public (motorized) access, exchanges, and acquisition needs.
 - Identify needs for trail/access maps in each Field Office.
 - Each District should promote at least one event or management issue that can provide an opportunity for management assistance from partner organizations. A wide range of activities and issues should be considered, including trail inventories, monitoring of WSA’s, race/event supervision, post-event follow-up, and preparation of trail information and key messages for various user groups. Submit events and dates to the ISO by January 31, 2004.
 - Each District should identify at least one OHV trail design, construction, rehabilitation or maintenance project that can provide an opportunity for public involvement.
 - Send one or two field office staff to the “Tread Trainer” course. Schedule of courses will be posted at www.treadlightly.org/trainer.mv.